

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PERMREPS LUNCH DISCUSSION, JANUARY 22

REF: A. STATE 13545 B. USNATO 279

SUMMARY: AT PERMREPS LUNCH JANUARY 22, FRENCH AMBASSADOR OPPOSED
POLITICAL DIRECTORS/NAC MEETINGS, ON INSTRUCTIONS.

PERMREPS ALSO FURTHER DISCUSSED US STRATEGIC RETARGETING AND
CONSULTATIONS THEREON AND HAD A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF SYG'S
PROPOSAL FOR HANDLING CONSULTATIONS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA.
END SUMMARY.

1. NAC/POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS

1. BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE RAISED SUBJECT OF NAC MEETINGS
WITH NATO POLITICAL DIRECTORS, AND CONSENSUS QUICKLY WAS THAT
MARCH 19 WOULD NOT BE A GOOD DATE; RATHER, THAT PERMREPS SHOULD
ASK CAPITALS ABOUT FEBRUARY 28 OR MARCH 1. I DREW UPON REF A.

2. FRENCH PERMREP INTERVENED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS
TO OPPOSE NAC/POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETINGS. FRANCE DID NOT
FAVOR THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ANY TYPE OF CONSULTATION
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DIFFERENT FROM THAT THE COUNCIL WAS CAPABLE OF. ANY SUCH CONSUL-
TATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WOULD DUPLICATE THE COUNCIL; CONSUL-
TATION OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL WOULD DEPRECIATE IT. FRANCE WOULD NOT
TAKE PART IN ANY SUCH INSTITUTIONALIZATION. IN THIS PARTICULAR

CASE, ALTHOUGH APPRECIATING THE BELGIAN GOVTS GENEROUS INVITATION, FRANCE WOULD NOT ACCEPT BECAUSE THE INVITATION HAD NOT COME FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OR NATO PERMREP. NEITHER THE FRENCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR NO PERMREP WOULD ATTEND.

3.DE STAERCKE POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE HOST FOR THE LUNCHEON AND BELGIUM WOULD MERELY PAY THE BILL. DE ROSE DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THAT SPECIFIC POINT AND THE DISCUSSION DROPPED.

U.S. STRATEGIC RETARGETING

4. LUNS AGAIN REFERRED TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S RECENT REMARKS ON US STRATEGIC RETARGETING, AND CONFIRMED DCM MCAULIFFE'S STATEMENT LAST WEEK THAT THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN MENTIONED VERY BRIEFLY, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, AT THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING IN THE HAGUE. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT MANY WERE UNCLEAR ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF RETARGETING. SOME OBSERVERS WELCOMED THE CHANGE WHILE OTHERS THOUGHT IT COULD BE DESTABILIZING AND WOULD RAISE THE FIRST STRIKE QUESTION. DE STAERCKE, ESPECIALLY, AND TURKISH PERMREP ERALP ASKED FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE SUBJECT SINCE IT RAISED NEW ASPECTS OF DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE WITH IMPORTANT AND SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF FORUM--DPC OR NPG--AND WHETHER I SHOULD SOON MAKE AN INSTRUCTED STATEMENT ON HOW RETARGETING AFFECTS THE PROBLEM OF DETERRENCE.

5. I AGREED THAT STRATEGIC RETARGETING MERITED DISCUSSION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, AND WANTED TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS WITH THE SYG WHETHER THE PROPER FORUM WOULD BE THE NPG OR DPC AND WHAT FORM THE QUESTION SHOULD TAKE. LUNS CONCLUDED THAT STRATEGIC RETARGETING WAS A SUBJECT NATO WOULD HANDLE SERIOUSLY, IN A WAY YET TO BE DETERMINED.

6. AFTER THE LUNCHEON, DE ROSE, PRIVATELY TOLD ME HE HAD STUDIED SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS CAREFULLY AND HAD REPORTED TO PARIS THE VIEW THAT US RETARGETING WAS EXCELLENT FOR EUROPE AND THE
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ALLIANCE.

CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA

7. IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF SYG'S PO (REF B), SEVERAL PERM-REPS STATED THAT THE IMPORTANT POINT WAS THE NATIONAL WILL TO CONSULT. EXCESSIVE DETAIL AND BUREAUCRACY SHOULD BE AVOIDED.
8. NORWEGIAN PERMREP BUSCH THOUGHT OSLO MIGHT BE CONCERNED ABOUT EXPANDING NATO'S ROLE OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA.DE STAERCKE RECALLED PRECEDENTS SUCH AS THE CONGO AND INDONESIA AS SUBJECTS FOR NATO CONSULTATIONS. BOTH THE TREATY AND THE THREE WISE MEN'S REPORT SANCTIONED SUCH CONSULTATIONS. THE PO CONTAINED NOTHING NEW AND PERMREPS AND GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT THINK OF IT AS

REPRESENTING A NEW DEPARTURE. IT IS FULLY AUTHORIZED AND INTENDED IN THE TREATY AND REPORT AND HAS BEEN DONE OVER THE YEARS.

9. DE ROSE SUPPORTED DE STAERCKE AS TO THE LEGAL BASIS AND PRECEDENTS FOR CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECTS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA, BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS WISE TO DISCUSS SUCH SUBJECTS AS POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA. NEWS OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS WAS BOUND TO LEAK AND DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

10. I SAID ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT I DID NOT SEE THIS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AS A QUESTION OF BUREAUCRACY OR TREATIES OR WISE MEN'S REPORTS OR LEAKS, SINCE NATO HAD THE FLEXIBILITY TO DO A VARIETY OF THINGS. BUT THAT MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT NATO COULD HANDLE PROBLEMS ARISING WITHIN THE TREATY AREA REASONABLY WELL BECAUSE OF DISCUSSIONS BEFORE THE FACT, HERE AND IN OUR MINISTRIES IN CAPITALS. THE SITUATION WAS DIFFERENT FOR MATTERS ARISING OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA, AND OUR HANDLING OF THESE WOULD LIKELY SUFFER FROM A LACK OF PRE-DISCUSSION. MANY PROBLEMS TODAY ARE GLOBAL OR INTERNATIONAL IN NATURE AND SOLUTIONS DO NOT ALWAYS LEND THEMSELVES TO ONE-NATION RESPONSES. THEREFORE THE ALLIANCE SHOULD CONSIDER THOSE THAT COULD AFFECT THE ALLIANCE. AS TO MECHANICS, THERE WERE VARIOUS WAYS AND DIFFERENT LEVELS FOR CONSULTATION. PERHAPS PRIVATE MEETINGS IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON SOME SUBJECTS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA. LUNS CONCLUDED THAT WE MIGHT GO AT THE QUESTION SOMEWHAT INFORMALLY.

SALT AND MIDDLE EAST CONSULTATIONS
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11. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MENZIES NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT SALT WILL SOON RESUME AND ASKED ABOUT US CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL. HE ALSO REQUESTED FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. RUMSFELD

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